



The Weekly Page

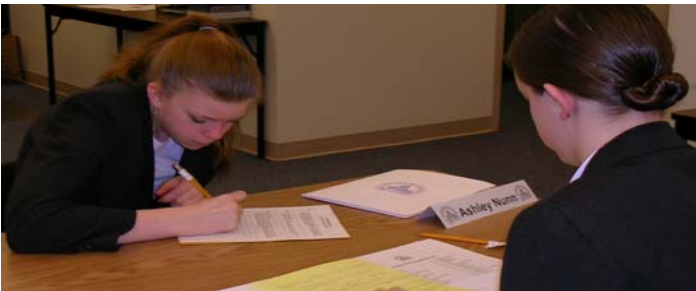
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 18, 2005

Pages Learn About Legislature

Pages write bills

On Monday and Tuesday, each page wrote a bill designed to solve a problem. Topics for bills included driving age, noise control, reduced school hours for high-schools students, and cell-phone use. They reflect real issues that affect teen-age lives in Washington State. Once bills were printed, pages solicited so-sponsor signatures.



Speed Limit Signs Are Too Far Apart

Today, Senator Leah Bjorklund introduced Senate bill 5189, which addresses the issue of Speed Limit Signs. "The bill is a good one because it will help to prevent speeding," said Senator Leah Bjorklund. There will be a minimum of one speed limit sign per quarter mile. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Anti-Discrimination Bill Enters Capitol

Today, Representative Micha Brodoff introduced House bill 2419, which addresses the issue of discrimination towards sexual orientation. "The bill is a good one because it will help diversify workplaces, which will increase productivity of the now stress-free workers," said Representative Micha Brodoff. This bill will amend the current Law Against Discrimination so that it prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. Other bills are planned to follow that will address discrimination based on creed and race. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 15, 2005.

Library Dollars

Today, Senator Isaac Buckley introduced Senate bill 6000, which addresses the issue of library funding. "The bill is a good one because books and good computers need to be open to everyone," said Senator Isaac Buckley. The bill promises that if education taxes increase by 0.5%, then libraries will get more money. They will also get free computers. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 15, 2005.

Cigarette ingredients noted

Today, Representative Rachel Quick introduced House bill 5312, which addresses the issue of cigarette ingredients. "The bill is a good one because it will reduce use of cigarettes and prevent illnesses caused by cigarettes," said Representative Rachel Quick. All cigarette packages sold, imported, exported, and manufactured in the U.S. must have all ingredients contained in any form of a cigarette on the individual packages. All manufacturers and companies that import and/or export cigarettes must be inspected for compliance with the law annually by a licensed government employee. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 16, 2005.

Board game simulates bill process.

On Tuesday, pages played a board game designed to simulate for them the process by which a bill becomes a law in Washington State. They came to understand that only about ten percent of the bills that are introduced actually become laws. They also experienced the frustration of having a bill "die" in the middle of the process.



Physical Education Is Not Educational

Today, Senator Dakota Bennett introduced Senate bill 6302, which addresses the issue of P.E. Class Requirements. "The bill is a good one because it will provide students with a better education," said Senator Dakota Bennett. Currently many high schools in Washington require students to take Physical Education courses in order to graduate. This bill recognizes the fact that Physical Education classes are not necessary for every student, and should not be mandatory. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Save the Environment

Today, Senator Alexa Dayton introduced Senate bill 7280, which addresses the issue of litter control. "The bill is a good one because it will save the environment," said Senator Alexa Dayton. This bill will end litter everywhere. It will make our world a cleaner and more safe place to live. Anyone who does litter will pay a fine of \$100 and ten hours of community service. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 15, 2005.

New Bill Will Provide Universal Healthcare To All Legal State Residents

Today, Representative David Perlmutter introduced House bill 1349, which addresses the issue of the Washington State health-care system. "The bill is a good one because it would provide adequate, quality healthcare to all legal state residents and would help those who would otherwise be left high and dry," said Representative Larry Springer. The bill proposes that all non-cosmetic medical procedures be fully subsidized by the state of Washington, while not infringing upon the important doctor-patient relationship. "This bill does not radically alter the healthcare system as we know it," Rep. Perlmutter continued. "All of the existing hospitals and clinics shall remain essentially unchanged. The only major change is that the onerous insurance system and HMO's will be gone forever and replaced by a more equitable taxpayer-funded system." To finance the system, Rep. Perlmutter proposes a graduated state income tax of 40% on those making more than \$300,000 annually. Recognizing that this would be unfair to some small businesses, a provision of the bill also proposes to eliminate the state's B&O tax, which can penalize businesses with high overhead costs. In addition, the bill aims to charge a 15% "vanity tax" on all cosmetic medical procedures not covered by the universal health-care program. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 2/16/05.

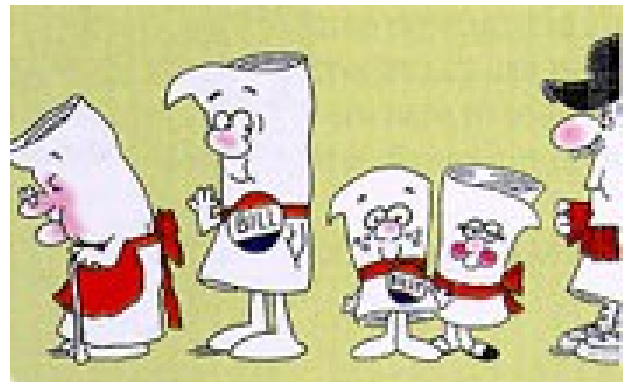
Bill To Allow Students Before-school Access

Today, Representative Sarah Faulkner introduced House bill 3273, which addresses the issue of Before-School Hours. "The

bill is a good one because it allows students the chance to get caught up on their schoolwork and their friends," said Representative Sarah Faulkner. This bill will enforce a student's right to be at their school an hour before their first class. This gives them a chance to talk to teachers, work on projects, and spend time with friends at their school. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 17, 2005.

I'm Just A Bill video provides review of bill process

After playing the Bill Process Game, pages viewed the video *I'm Just A Bill*. Many of them stated that they remembered viewing this in elementary school. This short video accurately illustrates all of the steps in the process.



Law targets drivers and cell phones

Today, Senator Chelsea Gilge introduced Senate bill 5678, which addresses the issue of speaking on cell phones while driving. "The bill is a good one because teenagers need to be immune to the risk of talking on a phone when driving," said Senator Gilge. This bill is for the protection of our youth, teaching them the importance of their safety and the safety of others while driving on busy roads. In order to reduce the risk of accidents and careless driving as well as distractions, teens under the age of twenty one years of age should not be permitted to talk on their phones while driving for their first year of experience. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 2/16/05.

Enable Teenagers To Work More Hours

Today, Senator Aaron Hesketh introduced Senate bill 5078, which addresses the issue of child labor laws. "The bill is a good one because it will enable teen's to get more on the job experience that they can use the rest of their lives," said Senator Aaron Hesketh. This bill is going help teen's age sixteen through the age of eighteen through letting them to work more hours. This bill give teens that hands-on experience that they can use the rest of their lives. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 2 16, 05.

Vote Yes On Music During School

Today, Senator Kristina Khaleghi introduced Senate bill 7811, which addresses the issue of students listening to music during school hours. "The bill is a good one because many students work more efficiently when they are listening to music; it enables them to concentrate better," said Senator Khaleghi. The bill states that all students should have the right to listen to music during school hours to help them study when they are given a work period in class. All students should be able to listen to the music of their choice provided that he or she has the volume at a reasonable level so as not to disturb fellow classmates, and provided that the instructor is not lecturing or teaching new material to the students. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 15, 2005.



No More

Today, Representative Melissa Knowlton introduced House bill 3333, which addresses the issue of the production of hot dogs. "The bill is a good one because it would improve the quality of the hot dogs and eliminate potential health problems of the consumers," said Representative Melissa Knowlton. This bill would ban any manufacturer from using internal organs, except liver, in the production of hot dogs; improving the quality and health of the food. This bill would also shut down and fine any companies who continue to use internal organs in their hot dogs. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

New Education Bill Will Increase All High School Students' Productivity

Today, Senator Kathryn Krueger introduced Senate bill 7654, which addresses the issue of high school operating hours and zero hour classes. "The bill is a good one because it benefits all high school students," said Senator Krueger. This bill encourages high schools statewide to begin the official school day at 9:00 AM, and to have two non-mandatory, but credit yielding zero hours beforehand with bus service provided. This allows students who do not want zero hours to get more sleep, and allows those who do want zero hours to complete those at a reasonable time. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Pages lobby their own bills

Pages practiced several lobbying techniques as they encouraged their colleagues to support their bills in committee hearings. They created posters, white papers, and speeches. In addition, pages completed media releases for this newsletter.



Bill Introduced Regarding School Vacation Days

Today, Senator Natalie Lang introduced Senate bill #6849, which addresses the issue of school operation days. "The bill is a good one because students wouldn't forget any important knowledge they learned in school if their vacation days were split into one to two week-long breaks throughout the year as opposed to an unnecessary three month break in the summer," said Senator Natalie. The bill focuses on reducing the number of summer vacation days in schools in exchange for longer breaks throughout the year. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Is WASL a Fair Way To Judge If a Child Should Graduate?

Today, Representative Ross introduced House bill 1001, which addresses the issue of the WASL. "The bill is a good one because it helps capable children graduate from High School," said Representative Ross. Different schools put emphasis on different material, therefore, it is not fair to test the schools on all of the same material. This bill will make it so that children's educational ability will not be tested on their ability at test taking. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 15, 2005.

Rewards For Responsible Students

Today, Representative Sadowsky introduced House bill 3000, which addresses the issue of laws relating to an intermediate license. "The bill is a good one because it gives students with higher GPA's a reward for their hard work," said Representative Sadowsky. This bill lets students who have a 3.7 GPA or above only have three months of their intermediate drivers li-

cense. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 15, 2005.

Bill Introduced Will Get Kids Moving

Today, Representative Rachel Shober introduced House bill 3023, which addresses the issue of the amount of physical activity in P.E. classes. "The bill is a good one because if it is put into action, it will fight the epidemic of youth obesity," said Representative Rachel Shober. This bill will require P.E. classes to give students at least 30 minutes of vigorous physical activity. Also, it requires schools to have physical education classes a minimum of four out of five days a week. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 2/16/05.

Committees debate bills, vote

Pages participated in simulated committee hearings on Wednesday. They read their bills and 'committee' members, governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, and debated the pros and cons of the bills. Amendments were proposed, some of which passed, most of which did not. When pages voted on bills, many ideas were passed on to an imagined legislative body.



No more WASL graduation requirement

Today, Representative Brian Wolfe introduced House bill 2626, which addresses the issue of Education. "The bill is a good one because it will save time in class rooms and more students will graduate," said Representative Brian Wolfe. It is designed to make it so that tenth grade students will not have to take the WASL to graduate. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 17, 2005.

Lowered voting age

Today, Representative A.J. Dotzauer introduced House bill 1005, which addresses the issue of voting at a younger age. "The bill is a good one because it allows younger citizens to get involved in there education," said A.J. Dotzauer. This bill would lower the age of voting to 16. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 15, 2005.

School Sports Practice For a P.E. Credit/Class

Today, Senator Sydney Filan introduced Senate bill 5177, which addresses the issue of Education. "The bill is a good one because it allows more time for school studies and rest," said Senator Sydney Filan. Students who are members of a school sports team would be able to use their sports practice as a P.E. credit. The practice would be held as a regular class during the average school day. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 17, 2005.

A Dealership's Worst Nightmare

Today, Representative Fowler introduced House bill 3562, which addresses the issue of car efficiency. "The bill is a good one because it will provide cleaner air and water for Washington citizens," said Representative Fowler. This bill requires all dealerships to have all their cars meet certain emission standards. It also demands at least 85% of the cars be averaging a minimum of 25 mpg (miles per gallon) on city roads. As a further limitation, the law demands the dealerships distinctly indicate which cars do not meet the standards to all potential buyers. This law will produce a number of employees with the sole job of performing monthly checks on all dealerships in Washington. The fine for not meeting the standards are a \$5 million dollar fine for every month when the law is not met. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Recycling fee proposed

Today, Representative Audrey Goodstein introduced House bill 54, which addresses the issue of Lowering property tax through the payment of recyclable cans of soda in schools. "The bill is a good one because it provides the funding for schools that could only be made accessible through the implementation of higher property taxes. However by bringing in a sum of .05 per bottle by recycling, the property tax which is used mainly to provide money for education can be reduced since money is found through the addition of recycling," said Representative Audrey Goodstein. School officials are required to encourage and provide bins that are the equivalent to those of garbage cans for recycling purposes. Those bills will then be used to recycle cans. Schools that recycle more cans, will find that they will benefit from a less sever property tax. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Lovick, Owen, Bergstrom, Paribello visit, speak, answer questions

Representative John Lovick D-44, Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, and Guy Bergstrom and James Paribello, Public Information Officers for the House Democratic Caucus, joined the

pages during their classes on Thursday. Each of them told students about how they came to be involved in politics and achieved their present positions, and they discussed issues they are working on during this session. Pages were able to interact with these guests.

No More Smoking

Today, Senator Kyle Montes introduced Senate bill 5289, which addresses the issue of Smoking in Public places. "The bill is a good one because It make public places more enjoyable," said Senator Montes. The bill will move smokers from crowded or busy area's and enforces NO SMOKING polices. It will allow every one to be able to enjoy public place a little more like subways, bars, and restaurants for example. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.



Representative John Lovick

Banning Television Commercials

Today, Senator Grace Lyman introduced Senate bill 5002, which addresses the issue of Banning all television commercials. "The bill is a good one because it will make it so no one in the state of Washington will have to sit around waiting for their favorite television program to come on," said Senator Grace Lyman. This bill will ban all television commercials. It enables you to watch your television programs without having to worry about the commercials. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16th, 2005.



Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen

School Operating Hours

Today, Senator Amy Meaden introduced Senate bill 5093, which addresses the issue of School operating hours. "The bill is a good one because Studies show that students who have more sleep listen better, learn better , and study harder ," said Senator Amy Meaden. This will let students have one more hour to sleep or study. Students will be glad and thankful to both their teachers and government. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Budget debate stirs emotions

Using actual state budget figures, pages debated how to balance the state's operating budget. Their task was to make up a \$2.65 billion deficit. "Is it always this hard?" asked a page as the debate intensified.



No Smoking Bill Proposed

Today, Scott Montes introduced Senate bill 5,000, which addresses the issue of Stopping Smoking. "The bill is a good one because then there would not be so many deaths," said Scott Montes. In order to stop smoking I would raise the price and also increase the fine. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Pages celebrate, mingle at Thursday pizza party

Thursday afternoon, pages took a break from their regular duties and socialized with each other while eating pizza. This was an opportunity for House and Senate pages to mingle.



Illegal Drugs

Today, Senator Thomas Lyman introduced Senate bill 5001, which addresses the issue of the use of illegal drugs. "The bill is a good one because it will help rid our nation of the use of illegal drugs," said Senator Thomas Lyman. Even though our nation already has laws against the use and possession of certain drugs, it obviously isn't stopping anyone from using or buying them. This bill will make the punishment for the use and possession of illegal drugs more intense. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Drunk Drivers Kill, Help Us

Today, Senator Kelsey Bacon introduced House bill 1001, which addresses the issue of drunk driving laws. "The bill is a good one because it will save lives and put drunks in jail," said Senator Bacon. People that are caught driving under the influence of a substance will be put to a harsher punishment than what is currently used. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Representative Moves That All Pages May Use Elevators

Today, Representative Gabriel Hug introduced House bill 2345, which addresses the issue of House pages not being able to use the elevators. "The bill is a good one because Pages will not be as tired and will be able to do their job quickly, and more efficiently," said Representative Hug. The bill would make it so that all pages would be able to use the public elevators on the capitol campus if they need to travel 2 or more floors. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 16, 2005.

Improved Visual Effects

Today, Representative James Knight introduced House bill 2913, which addresses the issue of visual effects of school appearances on students. "The bill is a good one because it will help increase productiveness and student learning," said Representative James Knight. Schools with negative visual effects have negative results on the student process. If they had a better visual appearance then the students would have a better outlook on learning. With a better outlook increased learning would ensue. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 7, 2005.

Jeopardy creates hit

On Friday, pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.

School Started Late Or Staff Death!!!!

Today, Senator Matt Olsen introduced Senate bill 7457, which addresses the issue of students getting enough sleep. "The bill is a good one because Kids will be able to get better grades in school because they will not be tired," said Senator Mitch Ponton. The bill will make every school (K-12) start at 10:00 AM. This will make kids and students alike be more awake and keep them on track. If the staff of the school does NOT oblige by the rules of the bill, they will be prosecuted and will have a death sentence by mules trampling over their bodies 78 times.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.



Time to relax!

Representative Aaron Panchal introduced House bill 1125, which addresses the issue of School breaks and starting times. "The bill is a good one because giving more breaks to students allows them time to transition between classes. It also gives would give them ample time to focus on one topic, and also time to concentrate on one subject without having classes back to back and being overloaded with information. If schools start later, students would have more time to sleep, and be attentive during the morning periods," said Representative Aaron Panchal. This bill moves school starting times to a later time, and giving more breaks to the students between classes. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on 2/16/05.

Smoking Illegal: How Can This Happen?

Today, Senator Mitch Ponton introduced to Senate bill 5987, which addresses the issue of Making smoking illegal. "The bill is a good one because then our death rate will decrease on a couple of years," said Senator Matt Olsen. Smoking should be illegal completely for some reasons some more important than others. First it will bring down death rates by an amazing amount. This will also help the court system out because it will bring down the amount of cases and the cases will not be about smoking and suing the tobacco companies. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 15, 2005.

Free Driving

Today, Senator Erin Rabbage introduced Senate bill 7998, which addresses the issue of Intermediate driving laws. "The bill is a good one because it will reduce pollution, car accidents

and racing,” said Senator Erin Rabbage. This will drop the six month law of having no passengers in the car with a new driver. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.

Page School is on the Web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: www.leg.wa.gov/common/pageschool/default.htm. This newsletter will be posted to the web early next week.

New Equipment for After School Activities

Today, Senator Meranda R. Tuttle introduced Senate bill 6592, which addresses the issue of poor equipment in after school activities. “The bill is a good one because after school activities have a need for new and improved equipment. Some activities are in sore need of new equipment being as it may be falling apart or nonexistent,” said Senator Meranda R. Tuttle. This bill will tax certain school supplies and cause students to pay for parking at their school. In return, after school activities will be provided with new or mended equipment. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 16, 2005.

Greatly Reduce And Prevent Deaths Caused By Drunk Driving

Today, Senator Angeline Watkinson introduced Senate bill 7089, which addresses the issue of Driving while drunk or intoxicated. “The bill is a good one because the number of deaths and fatalities will be greatly reduced,” said Senator Erin Rabbage. The main goal of this bill is to insert a breathalyzer in each car made in the year 2006 so that if your blood alcohol concentration was over the legal limit, the car wouldn't start. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Feb. 15th, 2005.

First Step In Reducing Deficit Taken

Today, Senator Daniel Wabinga introduced Senate bill 5555, which addresses the issue of the 2 billion dollar budget deficit. “The bill is a good one because it requires all state employees requiring air service between Olympia and Spokane to fly via a local airline, which would be run under the supervision of the state government,” said Senator Wabinga. The bill would ensure that state government employees would use the local air service. This would save the government money because many choose to fly out of SeaTac, which costs significantly more money. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 16, 2005.



Page School teachers

Page School's 2005 teachers are (l-r): Omar Crowder, BJ Meiggs, and Becky Parchen.

Innocent Dying

Today, Senator Shelly Culbertson introduced Senate bill 6443, which addresses the issue of people dying from smoking when they themselves don't smoke.. “The bill is a good one because it could help many people now and in the future who make the decision not to smoke but end up paying the price for it anyway,” said Senator Shelly Culbertson. This bill will make it illegal to smoke in a public area without the other present people's permission. If the permission is given then this bill will not apply. If smoking in public area without consent is reported that person will be fined . The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on February 15, 2005.